information in regard to employees who lost their jobs due to lock out/ closure/disinvestments of various PSUs and have been relocated, or the amount of compensation/statutory dues paid to each such employee is not centrally maintained. However, compensations/statutory dues are paid to such employees under the provisions of various statutes.

Implementation of Cable Network Access Act

565. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that set top boxes will have to be introduced in cable homes to implement Cable Network Access Act;

(b) the estimated number of users of such boxes in the next three year-wise;

(c) the assessment of Government about the time-frame of the broadcasting sector becoming virtually digital;

(d) whether the analogue equipments both with operators and subscribers will become redundant after such an eventuality;

(e) whether it is a fact that analogue technology can not create tamper proof environment; and

(f) if so, how introduction of analogue set top boxes would eliminate disputes between channel providers and operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4(A) of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has, on 14th January, 2003, notified the 15th day of January, 2003, as the date of within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel on an addressable system in the four metro cities namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter, a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not the free to air channels.

It is difficult to lay down a time-frame for complete digitalization of Broadcasting Sector, but as is expected elsewhere in the world there

would be an overlap period during which analogue and digital system will co-exist in the market. Up-gradation of technology is a continuing process. According to industry sources, digital equipment is robust with higher standards of security.

It is difficult to estimate the requirement of Set Top Boxes in the market at this stage. The industry has indicated that it might be in the region of 1.25 to 2.5 millions in first phase, of which about 1/3rd are likely to be in digital mode.

Fire Accident in the National Film Archives of India, Pune

566. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent fire accident in the National Film Archives of India, Pune master nagatives of great films like Raja Harishchandra, Bhakta Prahlada etc., have been destroyed;

(b) whether the construction of a special vault for the prints has been completed;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has informed that 607 films (5095 reels) in the custody of NFAI and stored in nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 08.01.2003. NFAI has further reported that most of the nitrate prints destroyed in fire including the films "Raja Harishchandra" and "Bhakta Prahlada" had been copied on to the safety base and the films are safely preserved in NFAI.

(b) and (c) The civil construction portion of the specialized vault has been completed. Electrical and air-conditioning work is not yet complete.

(d) NFAI has intimated that all archival material in the custody of